

**CALIFORNIA WORKING FAMILIES POLICY SUMMIT 2007**  
**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

**Sheila Anderson**  
**Executive Director**  
**Child Abuse Prevention Center**  
**[www.cap.org](http://www.cap.org)**

Since 1985, Sheila has dedicated her talents and career to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. In 1997, Sheila became the President & CEO of the Child Abuse Prevention Center (CAPC), which operates programs statewide and internationally through five integrated corporations. Sheila co-founded the Family Support Collaborative in Sacramento County, which was granted governance for a \$14 million prevention program by the Board of Supervisors. In 2002, Sheila was recognized for her efforts in collaboration with a national award from the Child Welfare League of America. She serves as a member of the State Child Death Council, on the board of Voices for National Service, and is Vice Chair of the California AmeriCorps Alliance.

**Diana M. Bontá, RN, Dr. PH**  
**Vice President, Public Affairs**  
**Kaiser Permanente Southern California**  
**[www.kp.org](http://www.kp.org)**

Diana Bontá joined Kaiser Permanente in October 2004 as Vice President of Public Affairs for the Southern California Region with responsibility for setting the Southern California region's policy agenda, internal communications and community relations programs. Previously, Dr. Bontá served as Director of the California Department of Health Services. Among other accomplishments, she was instrumental in strengthening the State's anti-smoking campaign and increasing access to healthcare for an additional one million uninsured children through expansions of the Medi-Cal and Healthy Families programs. Ms. Bontá received the American Public Health Association Presidential Citation Award and was named to Hispanic Magazine's 100 Leading Latinas. Dr. Bontá has been nominated or appointed to more than twenty-four advisory and governance positions and is an adjunct associate professor at the University of California, Los Angeles.

**Jessica Bartholow, MA**  
**Statewide Program Manager**  
**California Association of Food Banks (CAFB)**  
**[www.cafoodbanks.org](http://www.cafoodbanks.org)**

Jessica Bartholow is the Program Manager for CAFB's Food Stamp Outreach and Nutrition Education Programs, where she worked with partners to build the first-ever statewide Food Stamp Information Line that fielded over 60,000 calls in its first year. Previously, Ms. Bartholow worked six years for the Alameda County Community Food Bank as a coordinator, then manager of education, advocacy and outreach programs. From 2002-2004, she served as chairperson for the California Hunger Coalition and in 2003 led the Coalition for a Fair Budget. Ms. Bartholow earned her B.A. from Mills College, M.A. from the University of New Mexico and a graduate degree from the Instituto Latinoamericano de Estudios Sociales (Santiago, Chile).

**Patty Berg**  
**Assemblymember**  
**Incoming Chair, California Legislative Caucus**  
**California State Assembly**  
**[www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov)**

Patty Berg earned her bachelor's degree from California State University at Los Angeles in 1967. The primary focus of her public service became clear soon after when she became the founding Executive Director of the Area Agency on Aging serving Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. For the past four years, she has chaired the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care. Members of the Legislative Women's Caucus elected her to be their chairwoman in the coming year. Patty Berg was also recently named chair of the Assembly committee that oversees health and human services spending. Her other committee appointments include the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, Assembly Health Committee, Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife, and the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

**Curt Child, J.D.**  
**Senior Attorney**  
**National Center for Youth Law**  
**[www.youthlaw.org](http://www.youthlaw.org)**

Curtis L. Child is a senior attorney at the National Center for Youth Law in the Sacramento office where he focuses on assisting low-income children and families achieve financial stability. Prior to joining NCYL, Curt was appointed by Governor Davis in 2000 as the first director of the California Department of Child Support Services. Curt also spent three years as Principal Consultant to the Assembly Human Services Committee, helping to craft California's welfare and child support reform legislation. He also spent 12 years as an attorney with various legal services programs, specializing in child support, public benefits, and health care issues.

**Joel Cohen, MPA, MRP**  
**Policy and Community Education Director**  
**Dental Health Foundation**  
**[www.tdhf.org](http://www.tdhf.org)**

Joel Cohen is the Policy and Community Education Director of the Dental Health Foundation. Prior to joining DHF, Joel was a principal of Government Action & Communication Institute, a nonprofit consulting firm specializing in health care related issues, and was a senior policy analyst at the California Research Bureau of the State Library. Prior to moving to California, Joel spent over a decade working for the Majority Leader's Office of the New York State Senate. Joel has masters' degrees from SUNY Albany and CUNY, in urban and regional planning and public administration, respectively. In addition he received a BA from Yeshiva University in economics.

**Hector De La Torre**  
**Assemblymember**  
**California State Assembly**  
**[www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov)**

Assemblymember Hector De La Torre was elected to the 50th Assembly District in November 2004. De La Torre serves as the Chair of the Assembly Rules Committee. Additionally, he serves on the Select Committee on the Los Angeles Health Care Crisis. Among other committees, he previously served as chair of the Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services. Assemblymember De La Torre majored in Diplomacy and World Affairs at Occidental College in Los Angeles and attended graduate school at The George Washington University in Washington, DC. While in our nation's capital, he was appointed the Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Labor in the Clinton Administration.

**Denise Moreno Ducheny, J.D.**  
**Senator**  
**California State Senate**  
**[www.senate.ca.gov](http://www.senate.ca.gov)**

Denise Moreno Ducheny was elected to the California State Senate in 2002 and was reelected in 2006. Ducheny will be chair of the Senate Budget committee and remains an active member of the Agriculture Committee and the Transportation and Housing Committee. Prior to her election to the California State Senate, Senator Ducheny served in the California State Assembly from 1994 to 2000. After her term in the Assembly ended in 2000, she spent two years as a presidential fellow at San Diego State University. Ms. Ducheny received a four-year scholarship from Twentieth-Century Fox Film Corporation to attend Pomona College. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History and a law degree from the Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles.

**Jenny Erwin, MA**  
**Regional Administrator**  
**Women's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor**  
**[www.dol.gov/wb/](http://www.dol.gov/wb/)**

Jenny L. Erwin is Regional Administrator of the Women's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor for the San Francisco and Seattle offices and collaborates with community-based organizations, businesses & government agencies to develop programs that impact working women in nine states. Since joining the Bureau in 1999, Jenny has worked on diverse initiatives including financial literacy, women's leadership forums and efforts to expand workplace flexibility. Jenny was regional team leader of a three-year Women's Leadership Forum project that involved sessions in all 50 states, impacting more than 1000 community women leaders. Jenny has a B.S. in Elementary Education, a Masters in Guidance and Counseling from Northern Arizona University and did post graduate work in educational administration including a study tour of career development in Norway, Denmark and England.

**Danna Fabella, MSW**  
**Director**  
**Office of Children's Services**

**Contra Costa County Administrator's Office**

Donna Fabella is the Director of the Office of Children's Services for Contra Costa County. From 1994 to 2006 she directed the county's Children & Family Services Bureau. She also serves as a Commissioner on the First Five Contra Costa Children & Family Commission, and Chair of the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrator's (NAPCWA) Workgroup on Disproportionality. She co-Chaired the California Welfare Director's Association (CWDA) Statewide Children's Operation's Committee from 1998-2005 and has participated on many state committees in the area of child welfare. In 2006, she received the County Welfare Director's Association (CWDA) Leadership Award for leadership and dedication to improving the lives of all Californians.

**Noreen Farrell, J.D.**  
**Attorney**  
**Equal Rights Advocates**  
**[www.equalrights.org](http://www.equalrights.org)**

Noreen Farrell is an attorney with Equal Rights Advocates, where she advocates for women and girls through public education, impact litigation, legislative efforts, and free counseling. Noreen's litigation practice has focused on combating gender discrimination at work and schools, and protecting rights to family leave and other important work-life balance measures. Her recent legislative work includes outreach regarding Paid Family Leave and advocating for legislation to address family responsibilities discrimination in employment. Before joining ERA, Noreen was in private practice, representing workers in a variety of matters. She is a graduate of Yale University and UC Hastings College of the Law.

**Netsy Firestein**  
**Executive Director**  
**Labor Project for Working Families**  
**[www.laborproject.org](http://www.laborproject.org)**

Netsy Firestein is the founder and Director of the Labor Project for Working Families. The Labor Project is a national non-profit organization working with labor unions to negotiate and advocate for better work/family policies including child care, paid family leave, eldercare and flexible work hours. The Labor Project maintains the only database of contract language on work/family issues and publishes a quarterly newsletter, Labor Family News. Most recently the Labor Project played a key organizing role in the campaign that passed the nation's first paid family leave legislation in California. Netsy has over 20 years experience working with labor on work/family issues.

**Andria Fletcher, Ph.D.**  
**Chief After-School Consultant**  
**Center for Collaborative Solutions**  
**[www.ccscenter.org](http://www.ccscenter.org)**

Andi Fletcher is a nationally recognized leader in afterschool program and policy development. In 1997, she initiated California's first afterschool legislation (Ortiz, AB 326), which has led to \$550 million in funding. She and her team have worked closely with more than 3,000 programs and partnerships and designed and led several national and statewide learning communities. She is currently leading an initiative to develop exemplary practices in nutrition education and physical activity in afterschool programs. Her numerous publications are among the most widely read in the United States and she has been a keynote speaker and workshop presenter at more than 200 conferences. Andi earned her doctorate in Political Science from UCLA.

**Martin Gonzalez, J.D., M.A.**  
**Assistant Executive Director**  
**California School Boards Association**  
**[www.csba.org](http://www.csba.org)**

Martin Gonzalez is currently the Assistant Executive Director, Governance and Policy Services with the California School Boards Association. Mr. Gonzalez was instrumental in CSBA's creation of the Children's Health Task Force, the *Healthy Food Policy Resource Guide*, as well as *Student Wellness: A Healthy Food and Physical Activity Policy Resource Guide*. Mr. Gonzalez is the Chair of California Action for Healthy Kids and the Chair of the Senate's California Task Force on Youth and Workplace Wellness. Mr. Gonzalez earned a J.D. from Boalt Hall School of Law, a Master's of Arts in History and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

**Curtis Granger**  
**Program Manager**  
**Worksite Health Promotion Program**  
**[www.dhs.ca.gov](http://www.dhs.ca.gov)**

Prior to joining Public Health Institute and the California Department of Health Services, Mr. Granger consulted in the emerging Games for Health Sector and for a wine grape grower association on the North Coast. His main professional experience spans 17 years in the produce industry as Vice President of Marketing/Business Development for Ripe N Ready Tree Fruit. His first three years post graduating UC Davis was spent producing wine grapes and marketing them on the North and Central Coast. Mr. Granger served on the Executive Committee for National Produce for Better Health 5 a Day Campaign 1999-2004 and was Chairman in 2003. He also served as a member of Nutrition Policy/International Committees with United Fresh Fruit Vegetable Association from 1999-2004.

**Bill Grimm**  
**Senior attorney**  
**National Center for Youth Law (NCYL)**  
**[www.youthlaw.org](http://www.youthlaw.org)**

Bill Grimm has spent his entire professional life as an advocate for children and youth. Prior to coming to NCYL, Bill worked at the Legal Aid Bureau in Baltimore, Maryland where he helped to establish a child advocacy division and was co-counsel in a civil rights class action that led to broad reforms of Baltimore's child welfare system. Since joining NCYL in 1988, Bill has been lead counsel in a number of other civil rights class actions brought on behalf of children in the child welfare system including most recently *Braam v. State of Washington* - brought on behalf of more than four thousand foster children denied adequate mental health treatment and subjected to harm by being shuttled from placement to placement while in foster care - and *Clark K v. Guinn*, brought in August 2006 on behalf of children in foster care in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Kenneth Hecht**  
**Executive Director**  
**California Food Policy Advocates**  
**[www.cfpa.net](http://www.cfpa.net)**

Kenneth Hecht is the Executive Director and one of the co-founders of California Food Policy Advocates. Begun in 1992, CFPA is California's statewide nutrition policy and advocacy organization whose mission is to improve the health and well-being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. The chief focus of CFPA's work is expansion and improvement of the federal food programs in order to prevent obesity, hunger and food insecurity. CFPA's headquarters are in San Francisco, with field offices located in Los Angeles, Sacramento and Fresno.

**Mike Herald, J.D.**  
**Legislative Advocate**  
**Western Center on Law and Poverty**  
**[www.wclp.org](http://www.wclp.org)**

Michael Herald is the legislative advocate for the Western Center on Law and Poverty. His areas of expertise include CalWORKs, SSI/SSP and other cash assistance programs. Prior to coming to work for the Western Center, he was an appointee of Governor Davis at the Department of Housing and Community Development. He served as both legislative and external affairs director and played an active role in the

development of recommendations to Governor Davis on homelessness and integrating the developmentally disabled into community settings. Mike was formerly the executive director and lobbyist for Housing California, the statewide coalition of affordable housing advocates. He is a native Californian, a graduate of UCSB and has a law degree from Golden Gate University School of Law.

**Dave Jones, J.D.**  
**Assemblymember**  
**California State Assembly**  
**[www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov)**

Dave Jones (D-Sacramento) represents the 9<sup>th</sup> District in the California State Assembly. He chairs the Assembly Judiciary Committee and serves on the Health Committee, the Public Employees Retirement and Social Security (PERSS) Committee and the Revenue and Taxation Committee. Prior to his election to the State Assembly, Jones served as a Sacramento City Councilmember for five and a half years. Before his election to the City Council, Jones worked for six years as a legal aid attorney with Legal Services of Northern California, providing free legal assistance to the poor. Jones is a graduate of DePauw University, Harvard Law School and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

**Kate Karpilow, Ph.D.**  
**Executive Director**  
**California Center for Research on Women and Families (CCRWF)**  
**[www.ccrwf.org](http://www.ccrwf.org)**

Kate Karpilow is the Executive Director of CCRWF, a program of the Public Health Institute. For over 20 years, Ms. Karpilow has managed policy projects and conducted research in the areas of child welfare, welfare reform, child care, working families, and health care. At CCRWF, Ms. Karpilow directs the California Working Families Policy Summit and the Primer Project, both of which she founded. From 1988-1996, Ms. Karpilow served as the Executive Director of the California Elected Women's Association for Education and Research (CEWAER). Ms. Karpilow received a Ph.D. from Harvard University in Psychology and Social Relations and her BA from UC Davis.

**Corene Kendrick, J.D.**  
**Staff Attorney**  
**Youth Law Center**  
**[www.ylc.org](http://www.ylc.org)**

Corene Kendrick is a Staff Attorney at the Youth Law Center in San Francisco, an organization that advocates for the rights of children in foster care and juvenile justice. She has worked on a variety of YLC's reform initiatives and litigation on issues such as public benefits for kinship care and adoption, the use of institutions for small children, due process in parole proceedings, the confidentiality of juvenile records, education for youth in juvenile justice and foster care, conditions of secure confinement, conditions in foster care, and issues relating to race, mental health, and developmental disabilities. Prior to joining YLC in 2005, she was a Staff Attorney at Children's Rights in New York. She has a B.A. from George Washington, a Masters of Public Affairs from the University of Texas, and a J.D. from Stanford.

**Elizabeth A. Landsberg, J.D.**  
**Legislative Advocate**  
**Western Center on Law and Poverty**  
**[www.wclp.org](http://www.wclp.org)**

Elizabeth Landsberg is a legislative advocate specializing in health care issues at the Western Center on Law and Poverty. Prior to joining the Center, Elizabeth served as the Supervising Attorney for the Health Rights Hotline, a project of Legal Services of Northern California. She was the Ruth Chance Law Fellow at Equal Rights Advocates, a public interest women's law center in San Francisco, and a law clerk to Federal District Court Judge Martha Vázquez. Elizabeth graduated from Boalt Hall School of Law where she was the Editor-in-Chief of the *Berkeley Women's Law Journal*. Prior to attending law school, Elizabeth worked with battered women and their children.

**Amy Lemley**  
**Policy Director**  
**John Burton Foundation**  
**[www.johnburtonfoundation.org](http://www.johnburtonfoundation.org)**

Amy Lemley is the policy director of the John Burton Foundation, founded by former California State Senator John Burton. The Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life for California's homeless children and developing policy solutions to prevent homelessness. In her role as policy director, Ms. Lemley develops and implements the legislative, regulatory and administrative strategies to achieve the goals of the Foundation. Prior to joining the John Burton Foundation, Ms. Lemley was the executive director and co-founder of The First Place Fund for Youth, a nationally recognized program providing affordable housing and supportive services to former foster youth.

**Sally Lieber**  
**Assemblywoman**  
**California State Assembly**  
**[www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov)**

Sally Lieber was first elected to the State Assembly in 2002. In September 2006, Sally was elevated to Speaker pro Tempore, only the third woman to serve in this office since 1849. As Speaker pro Tempore, she plays a key role in the development and passage of legislation and presides over Assembly floor sessions. In addition to her leadership responsibilities, Sally serves on the Assembly's Judiciary Committee and Committees on Revenue and Taxation, Insurance and Local Government. Sally previously served as the Assembly's Chair of the Joint Legislative Committee on Ending Poverty in California, as Vice-Chair of the Committee on Local Government and as Chair of the Assembly's Select Committee on Mobilehomes.

**Frank Mecca, MPA**  
**Executive Director**  
**County Welfare Directors Association**  
**[www.cwda.org](http://www.cwda.org)**

Frank J. Mecca, M.P.A. is currently the Executive Director of the County Welfare Directors Association of California. Frank has served as the Executive Director for the past 15 years, during which time he has helped establish CWDA as the leading advocacy organization in the field of public human services. Prior to joining CWDA, Frank served as a Fiscal and Policy Analyst for the Legislative Analyst's Office, where he had oversight responsibility for most child welfare programs, including Child Welfare Services, Foster Care and Adoptions. Frank holds a Masters Degree in Public Affairs with a concentration in Social Welfare Policy from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, Austin. Frank is a well-respected expert in state and federal child welfare policy. Frank has his undergraduate degree in Government and Economics from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA.

**Holly Mitchell**  
**CEO**  
**Crystal Stairs, Inc.**  
**[www.crystalstairs.org](http://www.crystalstairs.org)**

Holly Mitchell is the CEO of Crystal Stairs, Inc., one of the largest private non-profit childcare development agencies in California, serving approximately 25,000 children on a daily basis. In addition to leading the agency, she represents the needs of families and children through active leadership with the California Commission on the Status of Women, The California Resource & Referral Network and the City of Los Angeles' Commission on Children, Youth & their Families. Prior to joining Crystal Stairs, she worked in public policy development & analysis at the Western Center on Law & Poverty and the California State Senate. Ms. Mitchell is a graduate of the University of California, Riverside and the Coro Foundation's Public Affairs Fellowship.

**George Manalo-LeClair**  
**Legislative Director**  
**California Food Policy Advocates**  
**[www.cfpa.net](http://www.cfpa.net)**

Mr. Manalo-LeClair has been working in the area of welfare and food policy since 1990. He has worked directly with low-income people as a social worker and on their behalf as a lobbyist. He has won victories for low-income people in legislatures of Minnesota, Missouri, Washington, and California. Having previously worked on homelessness, child abuse, juvenile crime, and other social issues, Mr. Manalo-LeClair is now focusing his efforts on ending hunger and on preventing obesity in California. He is currently Legislative Director for California Food Policy Advocates.

**Pedro Nava, J.D.**  
**Assemblymember**  
**California State Assembly**  
**[www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov)**

Pedro Nava was elected to the State Assembly on November 2nd, 2004 and reelected in 2006. He was recently appointed as Chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee. Assemblyman Nava studied at the San Bernardino Community College, graduated from San Bernardino State, and obtained his law degree from the University of California, Davis, Martin Luther King, Jr. Hall School of Law. He has worked as a prosecutor and civil litigator. Before his election, he served as the President of the Santa Barbara Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and President of the Board of Trustees for the Ventura and Santa Barbara Colleges of Law.

**Carmen Nevarez, MD, MPH**  
**Vice-President for External Relations**  
**Public Health Institute**  
**[www.phi.org](http://www.phi.org)**

Carmen Rita Nevarez is Vice-President for External Relations at the Public Health Institute (PHI), engaged in international partnership development, teen pregnancy prevention policy work, and informing policy through public health evidence. She served as Health Officer and Berkeley DHHS Director and former Medical Director of La Clinica de la Raza, Oakland, California. She continues to practice on a part-time basis serving women's health needs. Dr. Nevarez is Vice Chair for the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California; a Partnership for Prevention board member, past American Public Health Association Executive Board member; Past President of the California Public Health Association North; and founding Board Chair of the California Center for Public Health Advocacy. She was recognized in "Latinas of Excellence, Hispanic Magazine" in 2004 and 2005.

**Sherry Novick, MPA**  
**Executive Director**  
**First 5 Association of California**  
**[www.f5ac.org/](http://www.f5ac.org/)**

Sherry Novick serves as Executive Director of the First 5 Association of California, an organization of California's 58 First 5 County Children and Families Commissions. Prior to assuming this position, Sherry worked for 15 years in the California Legislature where she served as Chief Consultant to the Assembly Human Services Committee. During her years with the State Assembly, Sherry specialized in issues related to child and family services, early care and education, income support programs, disability, and long-term care. Sherry developed and staffed the CARES legislation to improve retention and training of child care providers and worked closely with the Legislative Women's Caucus on its early care and education agenda. Sherry holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

**Fabian Núñez**  
**Speaker of the Assembly**  
**California State Assembly**  
**[www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov)**

Speaker Fabian Núñez was elected to the California State Assembly in 2002 and sworn in as the State's 66th Speaker in 2004. Speaker Núñez has fought to protect and nurture the "California Advantage" – our innovative industries, our entrepreneurial spirit, our research universities, our environmental beauty and our greatest resource -- the most productive workers in the world. Last year, the Speaker worked to pass first-in-the-nation legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from California industries. Other legislation he crafted will encourage cable television competition, and launch major investments in California's infrastructure. Prior to being elected to the Assembly, from 2000-2002, Núñez was government affairs director for the Los Angeles Unified School District. From 1996 to 2000, he served as political director for the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degrees in political science and education from Pitzer College in Claremont. He resides in Los Angeles with his wife and three children.

**Ana R. Pagan**  
**Director**  
**Merced Human Services Agency**  
**[www.hsa.co.merced.ca.us](http://www.hsa.co.merced.ca.us)**

Ana Pagan is Director of the Human Services Agency in Merced County, California. Prior to that she was the assistant Director for Child Welfare and administration in Kern County. An anthropologist, Ms. Pagan has a Masters in Human Resources and Organizational Development. She is the current president of the National Staff Development and Training Association, an affiliate of the American Public Services Association, and serves on the APHSA President's Council.

**Giannina S. Perez, MPP**  
**Senior Policy Associate**  
**Children Now**  
**[www.childrennow.org](http://www.childrennow.org)**

Giannina Perez is a Senior Policy Associate with Children Now, working on early care and education issues. As a policy consultant to Assemblymember Cindy Montañez, Giannina worked on legislation to improve economic and educational opportunities for low-wage workers, in particular family child care providers and household domestic workers. Additionally, she has collaborated with Spanish-speaking family child care providers in Los Angeles to form a child care association. She was also a legislative aide for former State Senator Hilda Solis. Giannina holds a MPP from the School of Public Affairs at UCLA and a BA in Government from CSU, Sacramento.

**Amanda Purcell, MPH**  
**Policy Director**  
**California Center for Public Health Advocacy**  
**[www.publichealthadvocacy.org](http://www.publichealthadvocacy.org)**

Amanda Purcell is the Policy Director for the California Center for Public Health Advocacy. The Center raises awareness about public health issues and mobilizes communities to promote the establishment of effective health policies. In 2005, Amanda oversaw the Center's successful legislative effort to curtail junk food and soda sales in California schools. Amanda received her masters degree in public health from San Diego State University with an emphasis in health promotion. In addition to working for a decade on nutrition and physical activity policy issues, Amanda also has worked in the areas of adolescent HIV prevention and school-based asthma education.

**Jeanine Meyer Rodriguez**  
**Health Care Campaign Director**  
**SEIU California State Council**  
**[www.seiu-uhw.org](http://www.seiu-uhw.org)**

Jeanine Meyer Rodriguez is currently the Health Care Campaign Director with the SEIU State Council. She has worked on issue campaign advocacy for political and legislative campaigns and has more than twenty-five years of experience working in the labor movement. Ms. Rodriguez works with field, legislative, and communications staff to formulate and implement public campaign strategies for initiative and legislative campaigns. She has worked extensively with other community organizations to bring about mutually beneficial alliances. She has a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University, School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Ithaca, New York.

**Jean Ross**  
**Executive Director**  
**California Budget Project**  
**[www.cbp.org](http://www.cbp.org)**

Jean Ross joined the California Budget Project (CBP) as its first executive director in 1995. The CBP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established to promote a better understanding of state fiscal and economic policy issues and their impact on low- and middle-income Californians. She previously served as Principal Consultant to the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee, Senior Consultant to the Assembly Human Services Committee, and Assistant Research Director of the Service Employees International Union in Washington, DC, where she was responsible for coordinating the union's research on tax, budget, and employment policy issues.

**Patty Siegel**  
**Executive Director**  
**California Child Care Resource and Referral Network**  
**[www.rrnetwork.org](http://www.rrnetwork.org)**

Since 1970, Patty has been actively involved in the development and delivery of child care services, combining perspectives as a teacher, as a parent-organizer, and as the founding director of one of the nation's first child care resource and referral agencies, The Children's Council/Childcare Switchboard in San Francisco. Ms. Siegel developed California's legislation that provides state funding for child care resource and referral services (R&Rs) in every county of the state. Since 1980, Patty has served as the Executive Director of the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, a private non-profit agency that represents and assists fifty-eight local child care resource and referral agencies. As Executive Director, Ms. Siegel is an active participant in shaping state and federal policy for children and families. She also inspired and guided the development of Parent Voices, a grassroots parent-led effort to engage and empower parents to actively and successfully participate in the policy process.

**Tatiana Siegenthaler**  
**Legislative Coordinator**  
**Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now**  
**[www.california.acorn.org](http://www.california.acorn.org)**

Tatiana Siegenthaler is the Legislative Coordinator for the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (California ACORN). As Legislative Coordinator, she organizes ACORN members and community members in California around ACORN's legislative priorities in areas such as housing, education, public programs, health care and more. Born and raised in Colombia, Mrs. Siegenthaler brings her previous working experience with Reunirse; a non-governmental organization that works with underserved communities across the Colombian coast; Mrs. Siegenthaler main task was to assess the impact of Government's welfare programs in low-income families and to make recommendations to the Government's entities responsible for these programs. Mrs. Siegenthaler received her Bachelors degree in Finance, Government and International Relations from "The Externado de Colombia" University.

**Darci Smith**  
**Executive Director**  
**School-Age Consortium**  
**[www.calsac.org](http://www.calsac.org)**

Darci Smith has served as the California School-Age Consortium's Executive Director since 1993. CalSAC, the nation's oldest and largest statewide association for after-school and school-age care, champions the cause of quality, affordable programs for children statewide. During her tenure, Ms. Smith has developed and directed initiatives to foster CalSAC's growth, bringing new resources – both talent and funding – into the organization and the after-school field. She is a 25-year veteran of community organizing and has worked with agencies such as the Tucson Indian Center, American Red Cross, Bread & Roses, and On Lok Senior Health Services.

**Nancy Strohl**  
**Executive Director**  
**Child Care Law Center**  
**[www.childcarelaw.org](http://www.childcarelaw.org)**

Nancy Strohl is Executive Director of the Child Care Law Center that uses legal tools to make high quality child care accessible to every child, family, and community. CCLC works in California and other states with local legal services programs, parents, and child care and community advocates. She has served on numerous Advisory Committees, including the LAUP Advisory Committee, the San Francisco PFA Planning Advisory Group and the Alameda ECE For All Content Committee. A grandmother and working parent who raised three children, she has personal experience with high quality child care providers and the challenges of the child care system

**Sharon Terman, J.D.**

**Attorney**

**Employment Law Center**

**[www.las-etc.org](http://www.las-etc.org)**

Sharon Terman is an attorney and Skadden Fellow with the Legal Aid Society of San Francisco-Employment Law Center. She represents individuals who face employment discrimination, educates workers about California's Paid Family Leave benefits, and advises employees about their rights under state and federal family and medical leave laws. She graduated from Stanford Law School in 2004, and prior to joining LAS-ELC she clerked for Judge Richard A. Paez of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

**Bruce Wagstaff, MPA**

**Director**

**Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance**

**[www.saccounty.net](http://www.saccounty.net)**

Bruce Wagstaff became the Director of the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance in May 2005 where he has responsibility for CalWORKs, Food Stamps, Medi-Cal, General Assistance, Senior Nutrition, and Homeless Programs. Bruce had previously worked for over 30 years with the California Department of Social Services, ten of which were as Deputy Director. While with the State, he managed California's response to significant federal and state initiatives, including the GAIN and CalWORKs Programs, and oversaw the implementation of numerous state legislative directives. He holds an MPA from California State University, Sacramento, and a BA Degree from UCD.

**Joan Williams, J.D.**

**Director**

**Center for WorkLife Law, UC Hastings College of the Law**

**[www.uchastings.edu/?pid=3624](http://www.uchastings.edu/?pid=3624)**

Joan C. Williams is a Distinguished Professor of Law and Director of the Center for WorkLife Law at UC Hastings College of the Law. She is known for her work on women and economics and work/family issues. She has published widely, including the award-winning *Unbending Gender: Why Work and Family Conflict and What to Do About It* (Oxford University Press, 1999) and over fifty law review articles. In 2006, she received the Margaret Brent Award for Women Lawyers of Achievement. In 2007, she is scheduled to give the Massey Lectures on American Civilization at Harvard University.

**Diane Woloshin, MS, RD**

**Director of Nutrition Services**

**Alameda County Public Health Department**

**[www.acgov.org](http://www.acgov.org)**

Diane Woloshin, MS, RD, is the Director of Nutrition Services for the Alameda County Public Health Department. She has over 20 years of public health and advocacy experience, acting as a manager of numerous large-scale public health programs and special projects. Ms. Woloshin has worked in various county health departments and most recently worked as the Deputy Director of the California WIC Association. She received her BS-RD from University of Wisconsin, and a master's degree in Health Care Administration from California State University at Long Beach.

**Anthony Wright**

**Executive Director**

**Health Access California**

**[www.health-access.org](http://www.health-access.org)**

Anthony Wright serves as Executive Director for Health Access California, the statewide health care consumer advocacy coalition, made up of 200 organizations representing seniors, children, working families, people with disabilities, immigrants, people of faith, labor, and communities of color. Health Access has been a leader in efforts to fight health care budget cuts, to expand both employer-based coverage and public insurance programs, to win consumer protections, and to advance the vision of universal health care. Wright also worked at New Jersey Citizen Action, the Center for Media Education in Washington, DC, The Nation magazine, and in Vice President Gore's office in the White House. Born and raised in the Bronx, Wright graduated from Amherst College magna cum laude in both English and Sociology. He lives in Davis, California with his wife, Jessica, and their baby, Jefferson.